

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. A reagent composition for flow cytometric analysis of a sample of fresh human blood, comprising:
 - a. a lipoprotein in contact with leukocytes of said sample of fresh human blood for minimizing lysis of said leukocytes;
 - b. an agent for lysing erythrocytes from said sample of fresh blood for permitting flow cytometric analysis of said leukocytes; and
 - c. a preservative selected from the group consisting of diazolidinyl urea (DU), imidazolidinyl urea (IDU), an oxazolidine and mixtures thereof.
2. – 8. (Canceled)
9. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 further comprising an effective amount of a physiologically compatible salt.
10. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said lipoprotein is a high density lipoprotein.
11. (Original) The composition of claim 1 wherein said agent for lysing is saponin.
12. – 34. Canceled
35. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 further comprising a sample preparation instrument for preparing a whole blood sample for flow cytometric analysis.
36. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 1 further comprising an antibody for binding with a surface antigen of at least one of said leukocytes.

37. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 36 further comprising a fluorochrome associated with said antibody.
38. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 36 wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
39. (Previously Presented) A reagent composition for cytometric analysis of a sample of fresh human blood, comprising:
 - a. a high density lipoprotein in contact with leukocytes of said sample of fresh human blood for minimizing lysis of said leukocytes;
 - b. about 0.1 to about 2 percent by weight of an agent for lysing erythrocytes from a sample of fresh blood for permitting cytometric analysis of said leukocytes; and
 - c. up to about 5 percent by weight of a preservative selected from the group consisting of diazolidinyl urea (DU), imidazolidinyl urea (IDU), an oxazolidine and mixtures thereof.
40. (Previously Presented) A reagent composition for cytometric analysis of a sample of fresh human blood, comprising:
 - a. about 0.01 to about 5 percent by weight of a high density lipoprotein in contact with leukocytes of said sample of fresh human blood for minimizing lysis of said leukocytes;
 - b. about 0.1 to about 2 percent by weight of an agent for lysing erythrocytes from a sample of fresh blood for permitting cytometric analysis of said leukocytes; and
 - c. up to about 5 percent by weight of diazolidinyl urea (DU).
41. (Presently Amended) A reagent composition for preparing leukocytes for cytometric sytometric analysis, comprising:

- a. about 0.01 to about 5 percent by weight of a high density lipoprotein;
- b. about 0.1 to about 2 percent by weight of an agent for lysing erythrocytes from a sample of fresh blood for permitting cytometric analysis of said leukocytes;
- c. up to about 5 percent by weight of diazolidinyl urea (DU); and
- d. about 0.1 to about 2 percent by weight of a halide salt.

42. Canceled